

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-09 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

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EURE-00 AGR-05 DODE-00 H-02 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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BRUSSELS FOR LUCY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK, JA

SUBJECT: EC DECIDES TO EXTEND GSP BEYOND 1980

1. DURING AD HOC MEETING OF OECD, UK DEL (YOUNG) REFERRED
TO EC DECISION TO EXTEND THE EC SYSTEM OF
TARIFF PREFERENCES BEYOND 1980.

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2. IN LATER PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH USDEL (GOLDMAN),

UK DEL INDICATED HER VIEW THAT UK PROBABLY WAS LEADER IN THIS DECISION. ECDEL (SALTER) CONFIRMED DECISION AS RECENTLY TAKEN BY EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, NOTING THAT GSP IS APPRECIATED BY LDC'S, THAT EC SYSTEM IS "MANAGEABLE," AND THAT RESULTS ARE QUANTIFIABLE. ASKED TO RELATE EC DECISION TO GATT WAIVER (WHICH IS FOR 10 YEARS), ECDEL SAID THAT AN EXTENSION OF THE WAIVER WOULD BE SOUGHT WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EC HAS NOT ABANDONED CONCEPT OF BURDEN-SHARING, AND THAT MUCH WILL THUS DEPEND ON ACTIONS OF US AND JAPAN.

3. ECDEL PLANS TO NOTE AT THE UPCOMING UNCTAD TDB 6TH SPECIAL SESSION THE EC DECISION TO EXTEND GSP BEYOND 1980.

4. COMMENT: THE EC DECISION SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE EC'S TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO ADMINISTER THEIR FLEXIBLE GSP SCHEME IN A MANNER WHICH PERMITS FULLEST ADVANTAGE TO DONOR COUNTRIES WITHOUT DAMAGING THE SCHEME'S APPEAL TO BENEFICIARIES. IT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING, HOWEVER, THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE THE ACTUAL NEED FOR SUCH AN EXTENSION ARISES. THE US CAN NOW EXPECT PRESSURES TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE US SCHEME, EVEN BEFORE ITS SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED. USDEL PLANS TO MAKE NO DIRECT COMMENT ON RECENT EC ACTION DURING UPCOMING TDB SESSION, ALTHOUGH SALTER INDICATED THAT EC WILL POINT TO GSP EXTENSION AS POSITIVE EC IMPROVEMENT. HOWEVER, IN ANY DISCUSSIONS ON US GSP AT TDB, USDEL PLANS REITERAC US VIEW THAT GSP WAS DESIGNED AS A LIMITED-TERM CONCEPT, AND THAT THIS IS REFLECTED IN OUR LEGISLATION. END COMMENT.

TURNER

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